MARVEL
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EARLY FEB
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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
THE FALCON
MACNEIL '93

Still, I would have liked to have seen the Masters of Silence fleshed out more, as they were by Len Kaminski in IRON MAN Annual #14. Grade: B+.

"Foreigner": This tale didn't live up to my expectations. What I was expecting was a close-up look at one of Marvel's most enigmatic villains. Instead, all we got was a silly fight between a would-be assassin and a Foreigner-duplicate. Sorry, but I didn't really care for it. Grade: C

Overall grade: B.

Ben Herman
45 Runyon Place
Scarsdale, NY10583

Thanks, Ben. How's the cable-show deal coming along?

Dear Marvel Readers,

As a comic book reader I am a bit fussy, but when you come to the top of my list you'll see that your comic tops it. You and your crew are doing a great job, especially on Wolverine. You are also doing a great job on Iron Fist. The first story "Book of Changes" was a little below standard, but the "Depths of Despair" was outstanding. I'm glad to see Sabretooth in your pages. Thanks a lot.

The flip side: I think Dave (MRP #136) was right about giving up Ghost Rider. He's getting a little rusty lately. I'm not a keen fan of Ghost Rider and have seen many better heroes.

I'd also like to thank Steve Lightle on an excellent job with Wolverine. Since Steve came, the art has gotten better and better. Thanks, Steve. Maybe we can see Wolverine coming face to face with the son of Magneto. What do you think? Keep up the good work.

Mark Cowin
17 Croft Close
Brough, Kirkby Stephen
Cumbria, CA174BB, ENGLAND

Thanks, Mark, for a mostly positive letter. Do you think Ghost Rider is "rusty", now that you've witnessed the "Siege of Darkness" crossover? Despite your negative comment, we'd like to know what you thought of it. Now that he's linked up with a whole world of ghosts and demons, how does he rate with you?

Dear Richard,

Re: MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #143

I am here keeping up with the "Siege of Darkness" story arc. If this issue is any indication of what to expect in the next three issues of this particular book, man, the Midnight Sons are in trouble. Artistic trouble, that is.

Ghost Rider: I'm trying to remember where I've seen a style similar to the one employed by Reggie Jones before. Somehow, it has something to do with Dr. Strange, but I can't quite put my finger on it. Anyway, the artwork is the worst of the Siege chapters so far (and that includes the DARKHOLD chapter). I don't know about you, but Jones doesn't do GR & friends justice at all. Script-A; Artwork–D.

Werewolf: Honestly, I can't get over Jack Russell's new look. I thought the Lon Chaney tribute look was cool, but now werewolves as a rule are supposed to be on the order of "The Howling"? Anything to attract the fanboys, I suppose. Anyway, it must also be an unwritten rule that certain Midnight Sons (and don't tell me that Jack isn't one–yet!) have to ride motorcycles. Jim Fry's take on Jack resembles his work on NOMAD in the mini-series a few years back, but not quite as dark. Pretty funky stuff. Script-A; Artwork–B.

Scarlet Witch: Since a certain pair of MTV losers are soon to join the Marvel family, I think it's appropriate that I sum this up in two words. This sucks–especially the artwork! What is really going on here? This fails. Period.

Devil Slayer: In HELLSTORM #1, we learned that Gabriel had become destitute and dependent on the bottle. Now we see Eric Payne the same way. Is this what happens to the more obscure supernatural heroes of the 70s?

[continued]

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

pg.
FALCON 1
"LEGACY"

As a social worker, Sam Wilson has been investigating a case of child-abuse. What is the connection between this and a spate of arson attacks that are baffling Sam's alter-ego, The Falcon?

Writer —MARIANO NICIEZA
Artist — STEVE LEIBER
Letterer — LORETTA KROL
Colorist —MARIANNE LIGHTLE

pg.
AMERICAN EAGLE 9
"SAINTS AND SINNER"

American Eagle discovers a modern day Fagin – who only has his best interests at heart – not!

Writer — JOHN FIGUROA
Artist — RON WILSON
Letterer — UL HIGGINS
Colors — JO ANDREANI

This has little connection, as a matter of fact, none at all, to the Siege, so why is it here?–so there can be a decently drawn story. Not bad, but you need a follow-up to backtrack. Script–B; Artwork–B

Covers: Scarlet Witch: A+, Ghost Rider: A

Jacob Gilbert
118 4th St., Apt. 1
Troy, NY 12180

N

Never let it be said that we don't have the guts to print critical letters. Hey, Jacob, why don't you just tear out our entrails while you're at it?

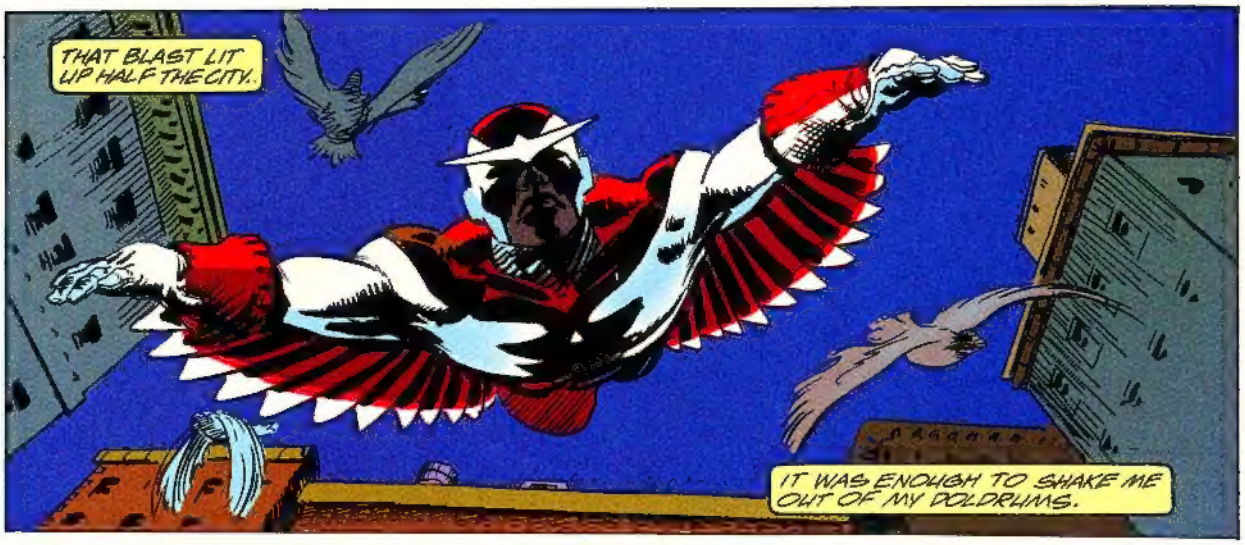
At least you liked the covers.

NEXT ISSUE:

Back with VENGEANCE!
AMERICAN EAGLE returns and we feature a new tale of the BLACK PANTHER!

SOMETIMES LIFE STINKS.
FOR WEEKS AS SAM WILSON I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING UP ON LOCAL GRADE SCHOOL CHILD BEATING CASES.
I HAD TO GET OUT AND CLEAR MY HEAD.
I KEEP THINKING OF HER...
JANET SORENSON, SIX YEARS OLD
WHEN YOU'RE INTO SOCIAL WORK...
THEY TELL YOU NOT TO GET PERSONALLY INVOLVED WITH YOUR CASES.
BUT HOW CAN I IGNORE OBVIOUS SIGNS OF TROUBLE...
I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND SENSELESS...
VIOLENCE.
FWOOSH-BWOOM

THE FALCON LEGACY


THAT BLAST LIT UP HALF THE CITY.
IT WAS ENOUGH TO SHAKE ME OUT OF MY DOLDRUMS.

DON'T THINK THERE'S MUCH I CAN DO AFTER THE FACT...

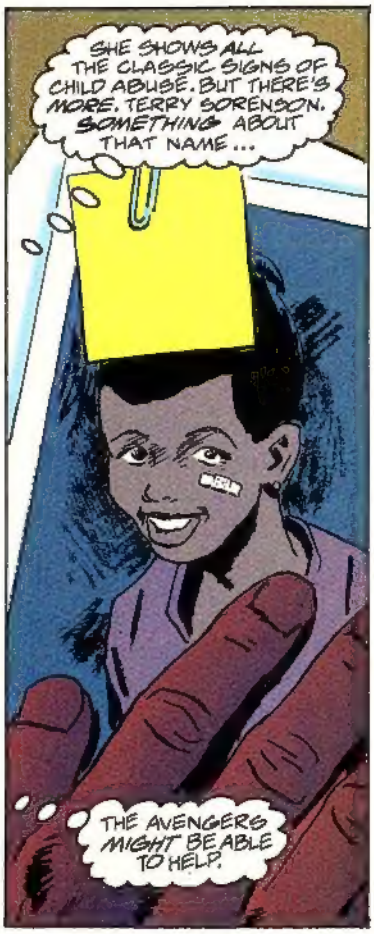
BUT IT'S WORTH A LOOK-SEE.
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
FALCON!
ANOTHER EXPLODED BUILDING, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED HERE!
IT'S THE FIFTH ONE IN THREE WEEKS!

HERE'S A TIDBIT YOU WON'T FIND ON THE NEWS. THERE'S NO EVIDENCE OF BOMBS OR TAMPERING. WE CAN'T FIND THE CAUSE!
I KNOW, I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING IT ON THE NEWS. ARSON?
THERE ARE ALWAYS ANSWERS. YOU JUST HAVE TO LOOK DEEP ENOUGH.
EVER CONSIDER SUPER-POWERED BEINGS WHO MANIPULATE FIRE? I'LL START MY SEARCH THERE.

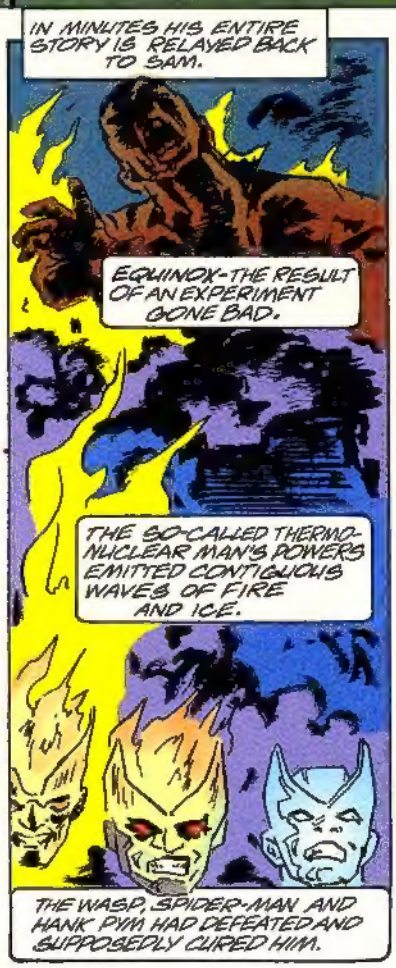
THANKS FALCON. GOOD LUCK!
WITH A LIST INCLUDING EVERYONE FROM THE HUMAN TORCH TO THE SUPER SKRULL, I'M GOING TO NEED IT!

NEXT MORNING AT THE 147TH ST. HARLEM OFFICES OF SOCIAL WORKER SAM WILSON.
SOCIAL SERVICES

JANET SORENSON. HER CASE STILL HAUNTS ME. HER MOTHER DIED A FEW YEARS AGO AND HER FATHER TERRY IS CURRENTLY UNEMPLOYED AND TRYING TO RAISE HER AS A SINGLE PARENT.
NERF


SHE SHOWS ALL THE CLASSIC SIGNS OF CHILD ABUSE. BUT THERE'S MORE. TERRY SORENSON. SOMETHING ABOUT THAT NAME...
THE AVENGERS MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP.

PEGGY? FALCON HERE. I NEED A FAVOR. SEARCH THE FILES FOR ME. ANYTHING ON A "TERRY SORENSON"?


IN MINUTES HIS ENTIRE STORY IS RELAYED BACK TO SAM.
EQUINOX-THE RESULT OF AN EXPERIMENT GONE BAD.
THE SO-CALLED THERMONUCLEAR MAN'S POWERS EMITTED CONTIGUOUS WAVES OF FIRE AND ICE.
THE WASP, SPIDER-MAN AND HANK PYM HAD DEFEATED AND SUPPOSEDLY CURED HIM.

FIRE POWERS.
HE HASN'T BEEN HEARD FROM SINCE.
THANKS PEGGY, FALCON OUT.
HIS ADDRESS IS CLOSE TO THE BOMBINGS. I MAY BE JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS, BUT I THINK EQUINOX IS UP TO HIS OLD TRICKS.
BUT WHY? WHAT DOES HE HOPE TO GAIN BY PETTY ARSON?
AND WHAT WILL BECOME OF JANET SORENSON?

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.
BUT IT WON'T BE SAM WILSON WHO'S ASKING THE QUESTIONS.

IT'S TIME THE FALCON VISITED THE SORENSONS...
I WARNED YOU JANET!

BUT DADDY, I COULDN'T HELP IT.
YOU CAN AND YOU WILL!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT!

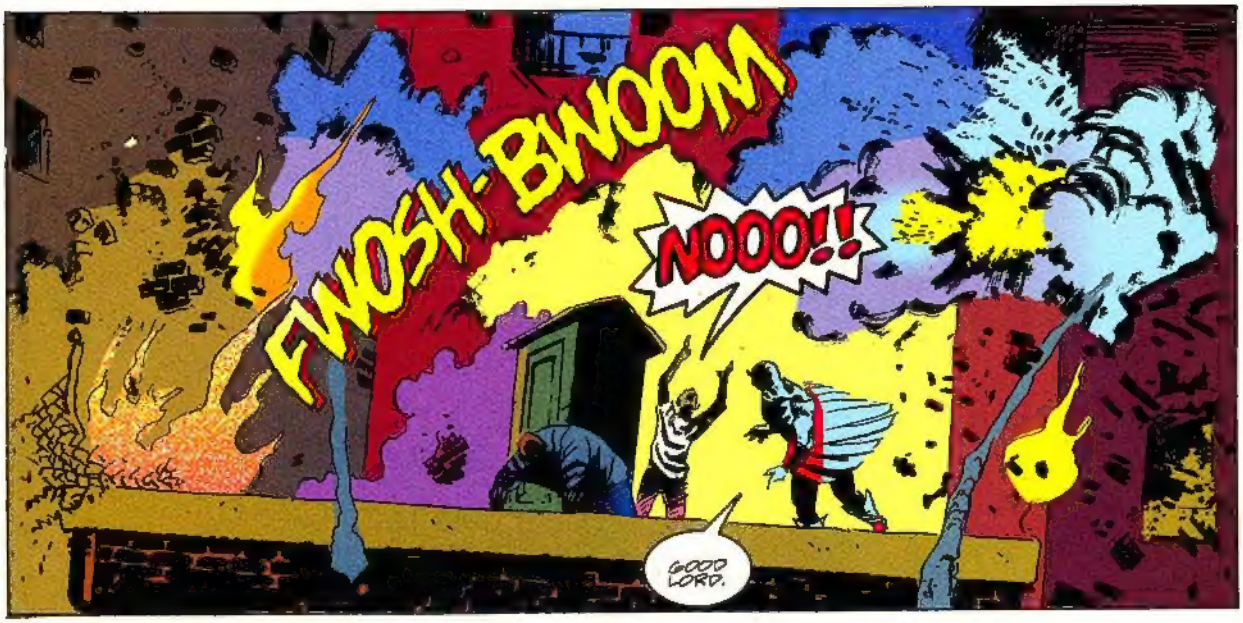
OH YES IT IS!

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO POUND SOME SENSE INTO YOU?
DO AS YOU'RE TOLD!

YOU GET IT, GIRL?
YOU GET IT?!!
I GOT IT.

TERRY, YOU'VE GOT TO STOP THIS! I WANT TO HELP BOTH OF YOU.
WHO ARE YOU? THIS IS MY HOME, MY BUSINESS!
NO... OH NO.
WRONG, "EQUINOX". ACCORDING TO REPORTS, YOUR POWERS WERE GONE. IF THEY'VE RETURNED, THEN I WANT TO HELP YOU CONTROL THEM.
WELL MISTER, YOU'RE RIGHT ON ONE COUNT. MY POWERS ARE BACK.
NOW CONTROL THIS!
NO... NO... STOP...
K-CHUFF
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO TERRY. OR IF YOU'RE CONNECTED TO THE RECENT FIRE-BOMBINGS. BUT I DO KNOW ABOUT THE BEATINGS.
AND I'M PUTTING A STOP TO THEM, NOW!
YOU DON'T KNOW NOTHIN'.
NOOO! STOP!!
YOU'RE WRONG, MAN, DEAD WRONG!
MY STEEL-MESH BATTLESUIT'S PROTECTED ME SO FAR.
BUT THE WAY EQUINOX'S BODY RIPPLES WITH WAVES OF FIRE AND ICE, HOW DO I FIGHT THAT?

IF YOU WANT TO TALK, TERRY, I'M WILLING TO LISTEN.
BUT THE FALCON IS NOBODY'S PUNCHING BAG!
TLIFFGHH!
YOU COSTUMED CREEPS ARE ALWAYS INTERFERING IN MY LIFE. JANET AND I GOT NO USE FOR YOU!
LEAVE US ALONE!
AARRGH!
DADDY STOP! STOP!!
TALONS, JET-WINGS...
NONE OF MY USUAL WEAPONS WILL DO ANY GOOD ON HIM.
BUT MAYBE...
C'MON MAN. GET UP!
NOO! DADDY!!
LET'S FINISH THIS. SHOW ME WHAT YOU GOT MR. FALCON!
LIGHNFF!!
IT WORKED. I CAUGHT EQUINOX IN MID-CHANGE FROM FIRE TO ICE!
IT'S OVER SORENSON. STAY DOWN!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...
NO...NOT NOW... NOT NOW...


FWOSH-BWOOM
NOOO!!
GOOD LORD.

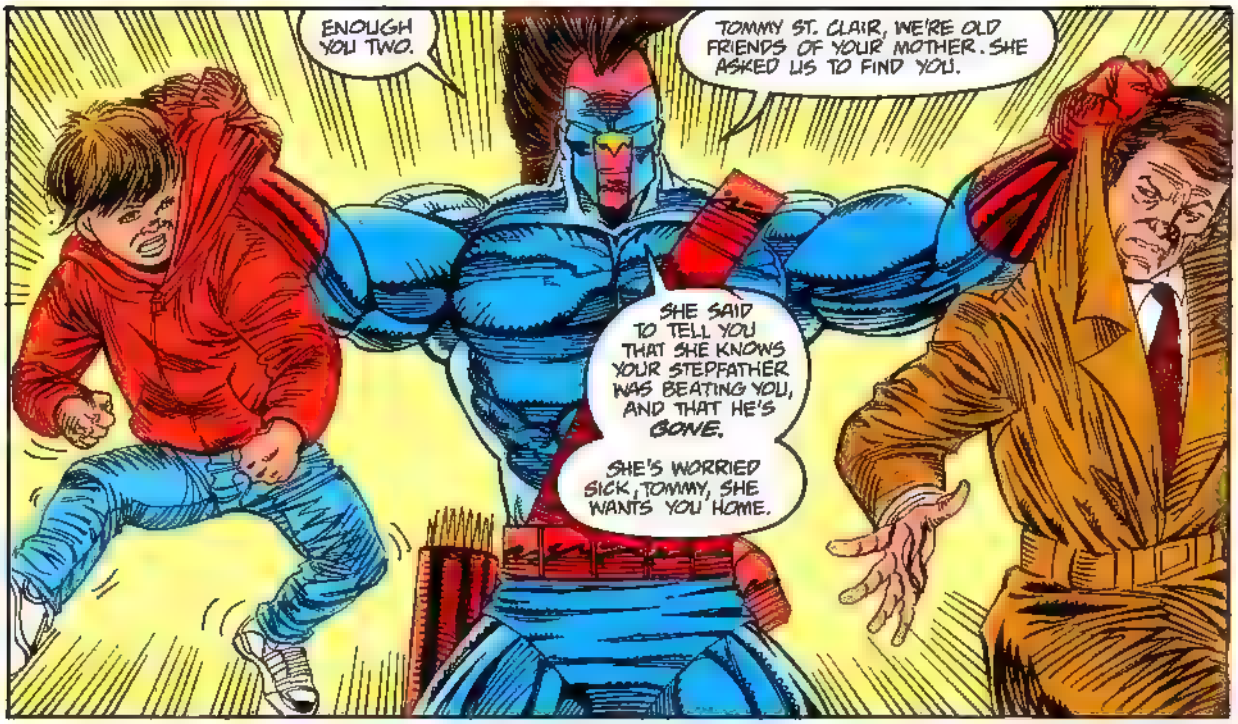
JANET HONEY, IT'S OKAY...
NO...I'M SORRY, DADDY...I'M SORRY...

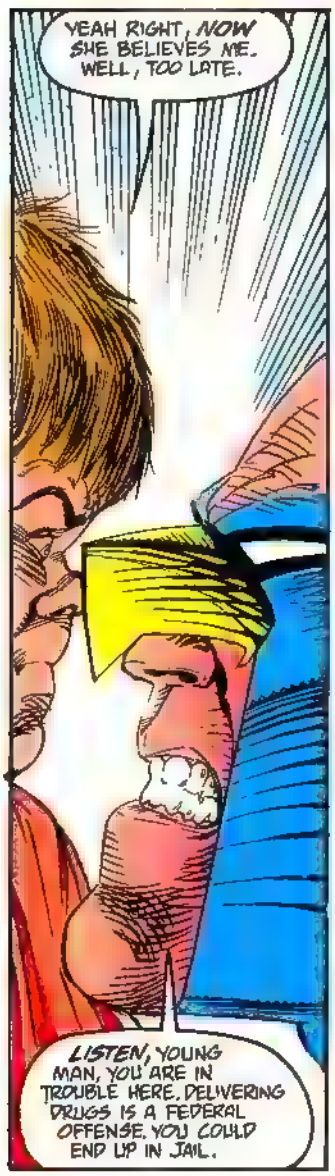
SHE'S INHERITED YOUR POWERS HASN'T SHE?
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
SHE CAN'T CONTROL THEM. I COULDN'T MAKE HER STOP.
THERE ARE ALWAYS ANSWERS...
YOU JUST HAVE TO LOOK DEEP ENOUGH.

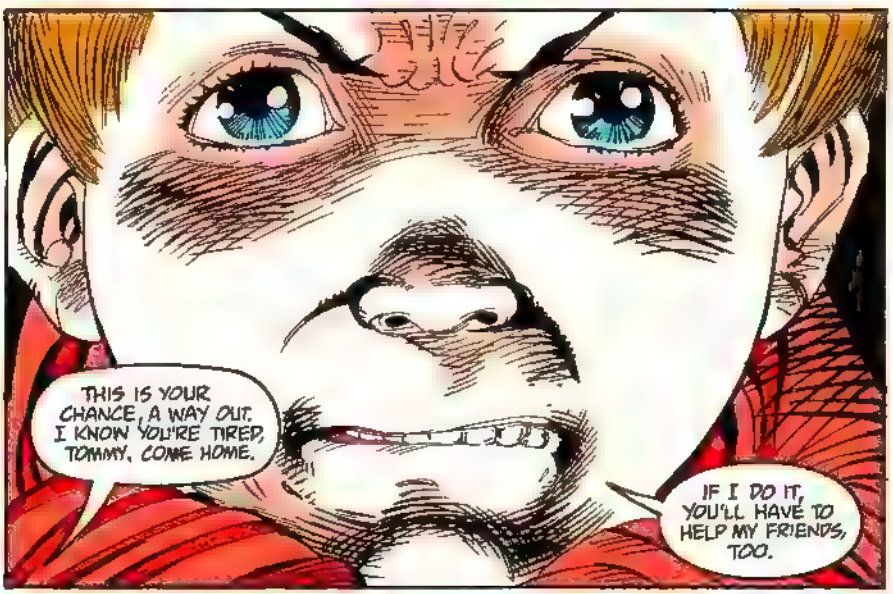
A BRIGHT, SUNNY AFTERNOON.
THREE WEEKS LATER.
NEW YORK CITY MUNICIPAL BUILDING.
THE FALCON AND TERRY SORENSON HAVE HAD THEIR DAY IN COURT.
ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, I THINK THE JUDGE WAS QUITE FAIR.
IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU, FALCON, HE WOULD'VE THROWN THE BOOK AT ME.
THAT WOULDN'T HAVE DONE YOU OR JANET ANY GOOD.
I TRIED TO STOP HER FROM USING HER POWERS. I JUST DIDN'T KNOW HOW...
I READ UP ON YOUR AVENGERS FILE.
THE AVENGERS HAVE A FILE ON ME?
I KNOW ABOUT YOUR FAMILY. YOUR FATHER'S ABUSE.
TERRY, YOU'RE TREATING JANET NO DIFFERENTLY THAN HE DID YOU. THE CYCLE MUST BE BROKEN.
TWO PLEASE.
I...I GUESS I NEVER LOOKED AT IT THAT WAY BEFORE.
I HAVE FRIENDS WHO CAN HELP JANET LEARN HOW TO CONTROL HER POWERS. BUT YOU HAVE A BIGGER PROBLEM.
TAKE MY NUMBER. AS SAM WILSON, I CAN HOOK YOU UP WITH PEOPLE THAT WILL HELP YOU.
THANKS FOR TRUSTING ME. I WON'T FORGET THIS.
GOOD LUCK, TERRY. KEEP AN EYE ON JANET.
AND THE FALCON WILL KEEP AN EYE ON BOTH OF YOU.

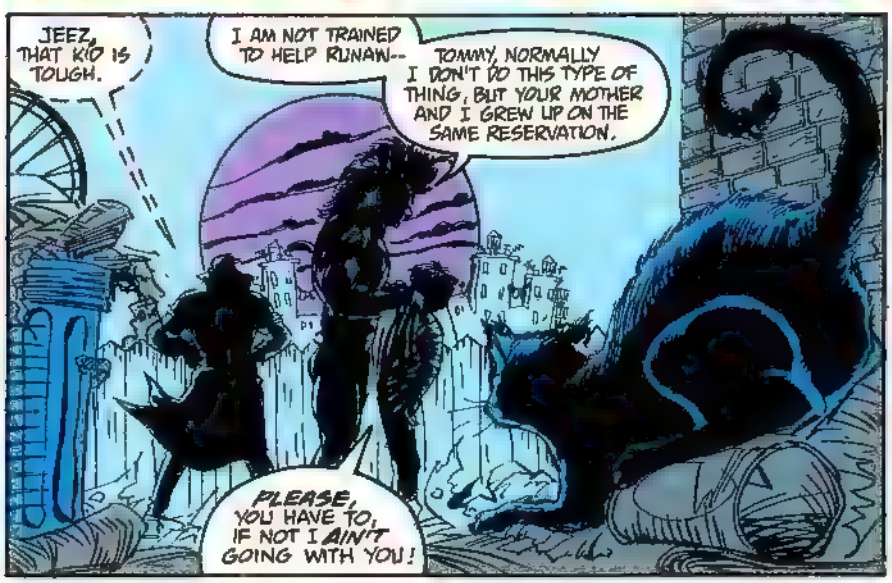
NEW YORK CITY.
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN TRUST YOUR SOURCE, EAGLE?
POSITIVE, FRANKIE. THE RUNAWAY WE'RE LOOKING FOR IS A DRUG MULE.
THIS IS HIS REGULAR ROUTE.
I HOPE HE COMES SOON, I'M FREEZING!
INSTEAD OF FRANK RAMIREZ, PRIVATE EYE, YOU SHOULD BE CALLED FRANK RAMIREZ--- COMPLAINER!
SAINTS AND SINNERS

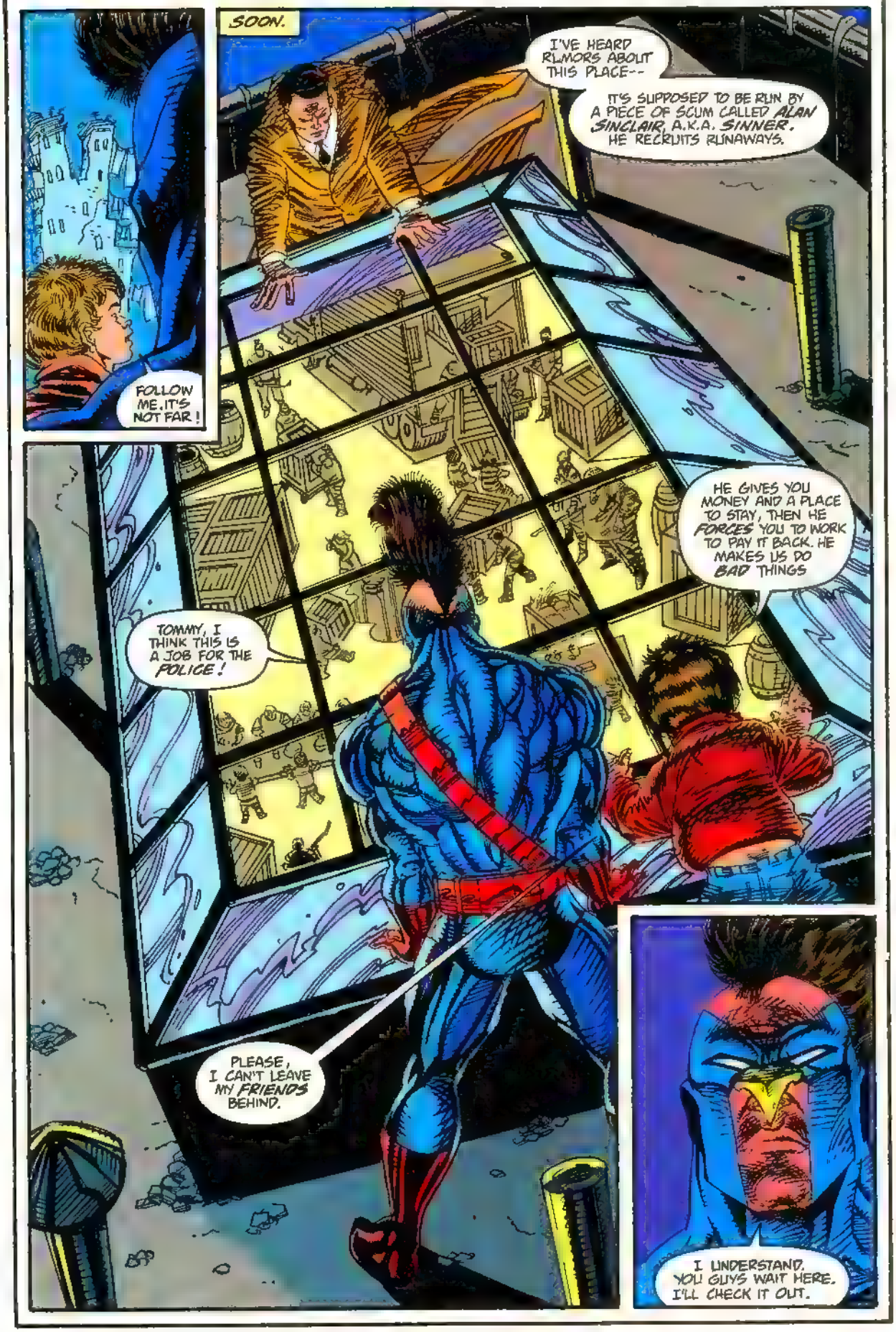
HA-HA. I'M NOT COMPLAINING, IT'S JUST--
SHHHH! I THINK HE'S COMING...
"... THAT'S HIM."
SOMETHING'S WEIRD HERE...
WHO'S THERE? DON'T MESS WITH ME... I'M STRAPPED!
THUMP
GOT HIM!
GET OFF ME!
HEY, CALM DOWN KID--OUCH!

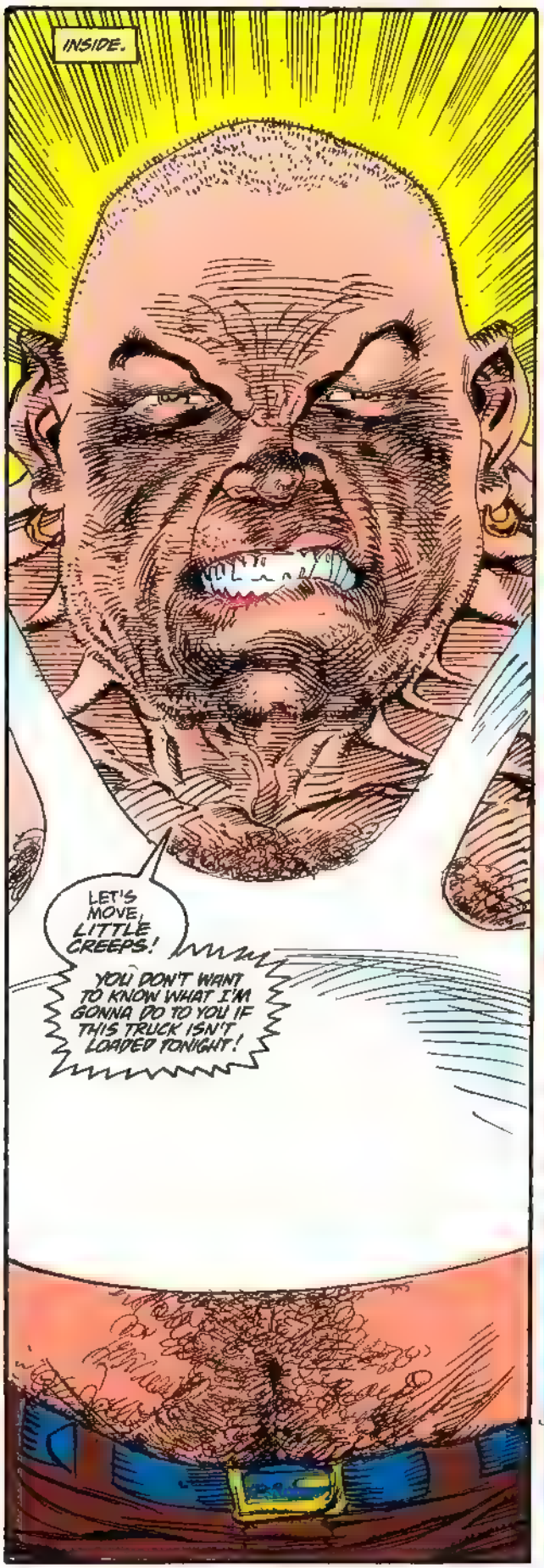

ENOUGH YOU TWO.
TOMMY ST. CLAIR, WE'RE OLD FRIENDS OF YOUR MOTHER. SHE ASKED US TO FIND YOU.
SHE SAID TO TELL YOU THAT SHE KNOWS YOUR STEPFATHER WAS BEATING YOU, AND THAT HE'S GONE.
SHE'S WORRIED SICK, TOMMY, SHE WANTS YOU HOME.


YEAH RIGHT, NOW SHE BELIEVES ME. WELL, TOO LATE.
LISTEN, YOUNG MAN, YOU ARE IN TROUBLE HERE. DELIVERING DRUGS IS A FEDERAL OFFENSE. YOU COULD END UP IN JAIL.

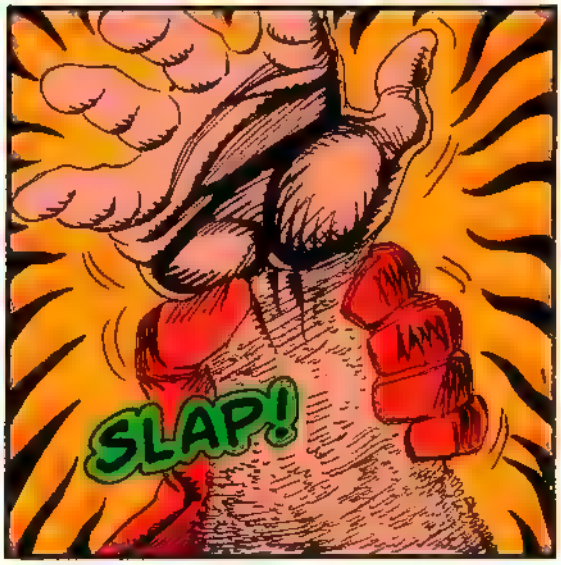

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE, A WAY OUT. I KNOW YOU'RE TIRED, TOMMY. COME HOME.
IF I DO IT, YOU'LL HAVE TO HELP MY FRIENDS, TOO.


JEEZ, THAT KID IS TOUGH.
I AM NOT TRAINED TO HELP RUNAW--
TOMMY, NORMALLY I DON'T DO THIS TYPE OF THING, BUT YOUR MOTHER AND I GREW UP ON THE SAME RESERVATION.
PLEASE, YOU HAVE TO, IF NOT I AIN'T GOING WITH YOU!

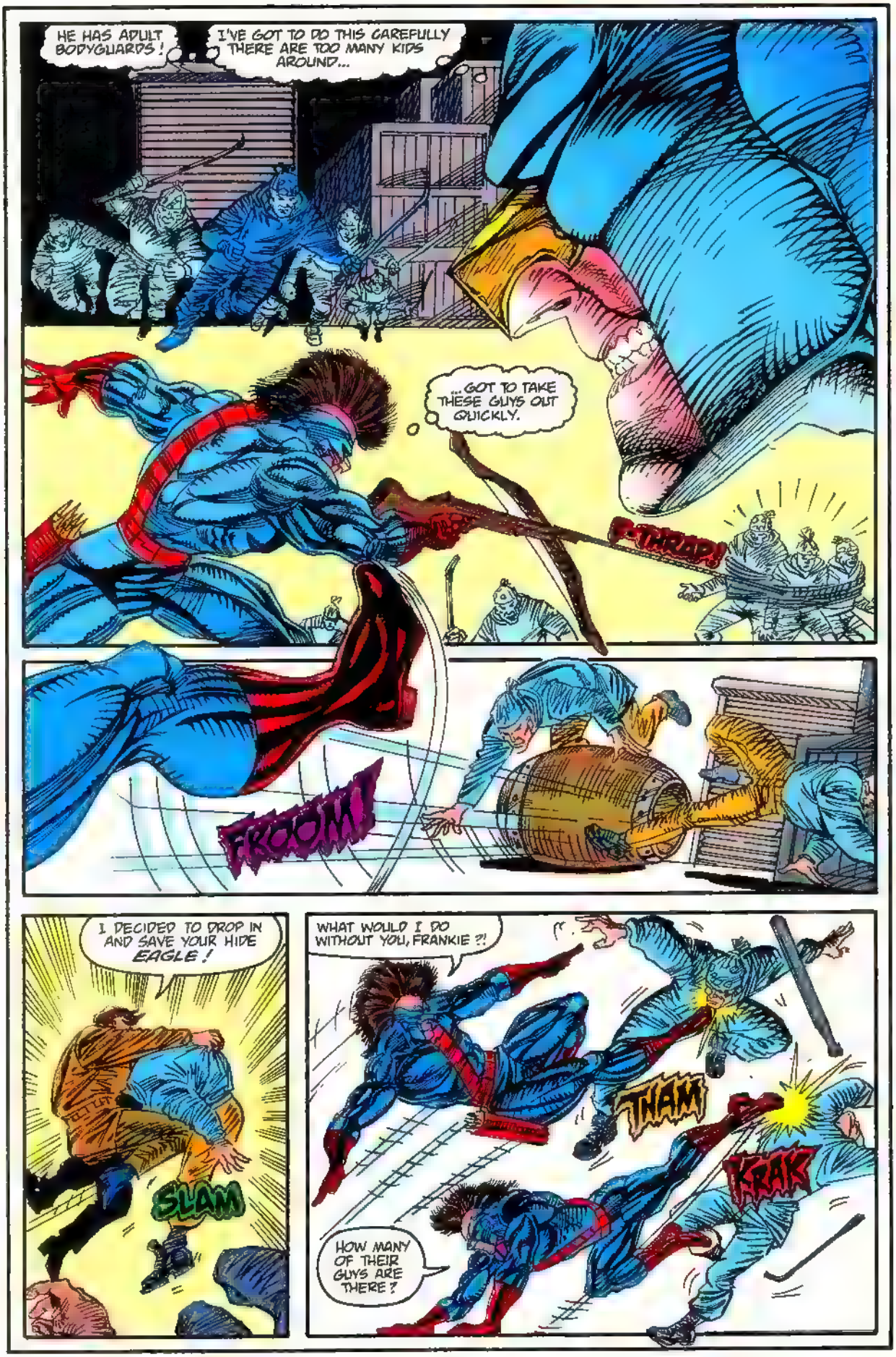

SOON.
I'VE HEARD RUMORS ABOUT THIS PLACE--
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE RUN BY A PIECE OF SCUM CALLED ALAN SINCLAIR, A.K.A. SINNER. HE RECRUITS RUNAWAYS.
FOLLOW ME. IT'S NOT FAR!
HE GIVES YOU MONEY AND A PLACE TO STAY, THEN HE FORCES YOU TO WORK TO PAY IT BACK. HE MAKES US DO BAD THINGS
TOMMY, I THINK THIS IS A JOB FOR THE POLICE!
PLEASE, I CAN'T LEAVE MY FRIENDS BEHIND.
I UNDERSTAND. YOU GUYS WAIT HERE. I'LL CHECK IT OUT.


INSIDE.
LET'S MOVE, LITTLE CREEPS!
YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW WHAT I'M GONNA DO TO YOU IF THIS TRUCK ISN'T LOADED TONIGHT!

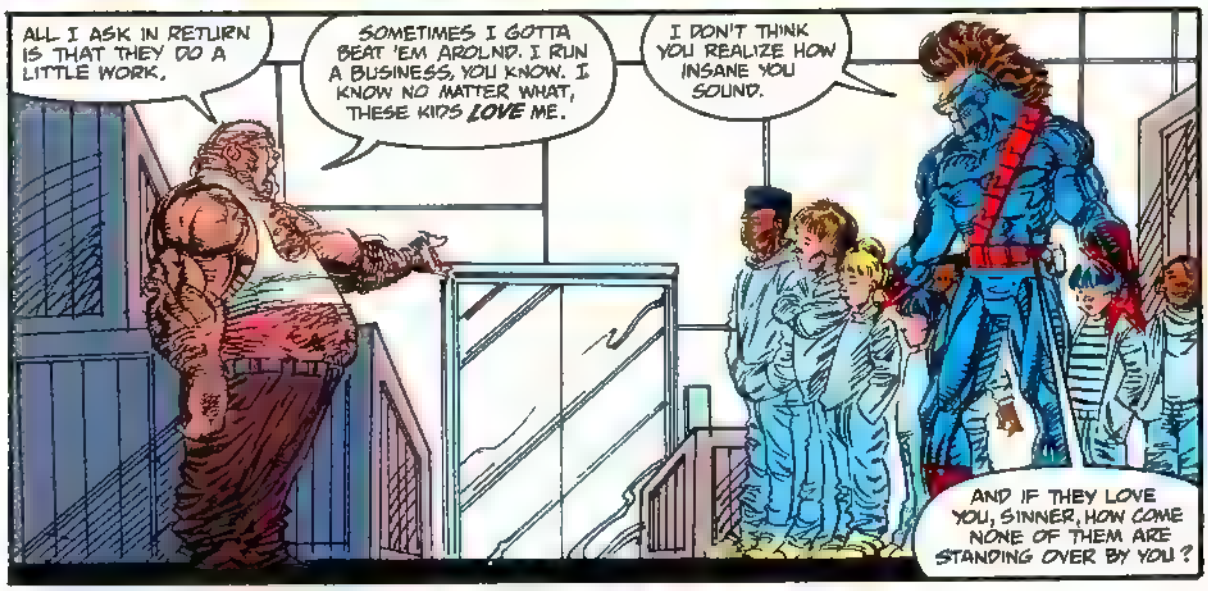
DID I STUTTER? I SAID WORK FASTER!
I'M WORKING FAST. PLEASE DON'T HIT ME, SINNER!


SLAP!

WHY DON'T YOU TRY THAT WITH SOMEONE WHO HITS BACK!
WHO THE ? GET THIS FREAK OUTTA HERE!


HE HAS ADULT BODYGUARDS!
I'VE GOT TO DO THIS CAREFULLY THERE ARE TOO MANY KIDS AROUND...
...GOT TO TAKE THESE GUYS OUT QUICKLY.
THRAP!
FROOOM!
I DECIDED TO DROP IN AND SAVE YOUR HIDE EAGLE!
SLAM
WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT YOU, FRANKIE?!
THAM
KRAK
HOW MANY OF THEIR GUYS ARE THERE?

YOU GOT SOME NERVE COMIN' IN HERE, BUSTIN' MY PLACE OF BUSINESS UP--!
NO ONE WANTS THESE BRATS. I GAVE THEM A PLACE TO STAY, FOOD! BLAME THEIR PARENTS!


ALL I ASK IN RETURN IS THAT THEY DO A LITTLE WORK.
SOMETIMES I GOTTA BEAT 'EM AROUND. I RUN A BUSINESS, YOU KNOW. I KNOW NO MATTER WHAT, THESE KIDS LOVE ME.
I DON'T THINK YOU REALIZE HOW INSANE YOU SOUND.
AND IF THEY LOVE YOU, SINNER, HOW COME NONE OF THEM ARE STANDING OVER BY YOU?

I'M TEMPTED TO BEAT YOUR HEAD IN-- BUT I WON'T.
I'M TAKING THESE KIDS TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES AND THEN I'M COMING BACK WITH THE POLICE.
YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST WALK OUT OF HERE!
I'LL PUT A BULLET IN EACH OF THESE LITTLE CREEPS BEFORE I LET YOU DESTROY MY BUSINESS!
HERE IS A SMALL TASTE OF WHAT I'M GONNA DO TO YOU IF I FIND OUT YOU HURT ANYMORE KIDS.
THUMPH
KRAK
" THAT MONSTER WAS RIGHT. HE ISN'T THE ONLY ONE TO BLAME...
"..PARENTS, SCHOOLS-- EVERYONE HAS TO WORK HARDER TO PROTECT KIDS FROM THE SINNERS OF THE WORLD."
-FIN-

MARVEL
MIDNIGHT SONS
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS
VENOM
DEEM

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS

Robert Brown — VENGEANCE COVER
Colin Mac Neil —FALCON COVER
Richard Ashford — EDITOR
Michael Kraiger — ASSISTANT EDITOR
Tom DeFalco — EDITOR IN CHIEF

pg.
VENGEANCE.....1
"TOWER OF BLOOD"
PART 1

With Ghost Rider dead — who're ya gonna call! Vengeance? But how will he fare against Pshipon who thrives on supernatural power!

Writer — CHRIS COOPER
Breakdowns — REGGIE JONES
Finishes — FRED HARPER
Letterer — UL HIGGINS
Colorist — JOE ANDREANI

pg.
MASTERS OF SILENCE..9
"SERPENTS TEETH"

Back in the old days, before they met Tony Stark and Iron Man, The Masters of Silence were keeping themselves busy upholding honor and debts of vengeance. But who would have anything against a bunch of rowdy teenagers? Beware the answer!

Writer — LEN KAMINSKI
Pencils — DAVID CULLEN
Inks — JOHN STANICI
Letterer — UL HIGGINS
Colorist — LIL' JIMMIE FELDER

MARVEL READERS PRESENT

c/o Marvel Comics Group
387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016

Attention Correspondents: All letters to be considered for publication must include your name and address though we will withhold that info by request!

Dear Richard and Michael,

MCP #142 was quite a good issue. The Ghost Rider cover was well-rendered, with some very bright, almost fluorescent colors, giving it a unique look. I wasn't as crazy about the Wolverine cover, since all of George Pratt's covers for Wolvie look pretty much the same. The GR cover gets an A, and the Wolvie cover a B-. As for the stories

"Rumble in the Jungle" Part 6. For a chapter that was added on at the last minute, this was pretty good. The Marrinan/Koblish team seem good at producing dramatic artwork that flows very well. Chris's writing was also well done. Grade: A

"Spellbound" Part 5: This was certainly an enjoyable conclusion. My only regret was that Erica didn't regain her sanity. Oh well, maybe next time. In other words, I wouldn't mind seeing the Spellbinders appear in these pages again. Grade: A

"Fellow Travelers" Part 6: Aside from the fact that this story was really one long fight scene, I still found it enjoyable. There's nothing wrong with an occasional slugfest IF it's done the right way.

[LETTERS CONTINUE ON INSIDE BACK COVER]

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G. Total (sum of E, F1 and 2 should equal net press run shown in A): Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 207,833. Actual no. copies of single issue nearest to filing date: 172,100.
11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

(signed) Diane Rivera — Business Manager

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IN A BEAUTIFUL OFFICE TOWER HIGH ABOVE THE STREETS OF MANNATTAN...
...THINGS HAVE JUST GOTTEN UGLY.
TOWER OF BLOOD
ALERT ALL UNITS-- POSITIVE CONTACT! VENGEANCE ON PREMISES.
SKRASH

NO-- I'M TOO LATE!

KA-KOOM

YEEAGK!

ROOM

Urrk

THE ENTIRE OFFICE... ALL THOSE PEOPLE SLAUGHTERED?

THE FRESH CORPSES ARE MUTE TESTAMENT TO WHAT HAPPENED HERE ONLY MOMENTS AGO.

SOMEHOW, THE TERRORISTS MUST HAVE INFILTRATED THE BUILDING.

STORE ROOM

THE URGENT BULLETIN ON POLICE RADIO REPORTED A BARRAGE OF SHOTS FIRED...

...BUT THERE WAS NO REPORT OF ANY RANSOM DEMANDS...

...NO POLITICAL DEMANDS...

...NO MERCY...

...NO SURVIVORS.

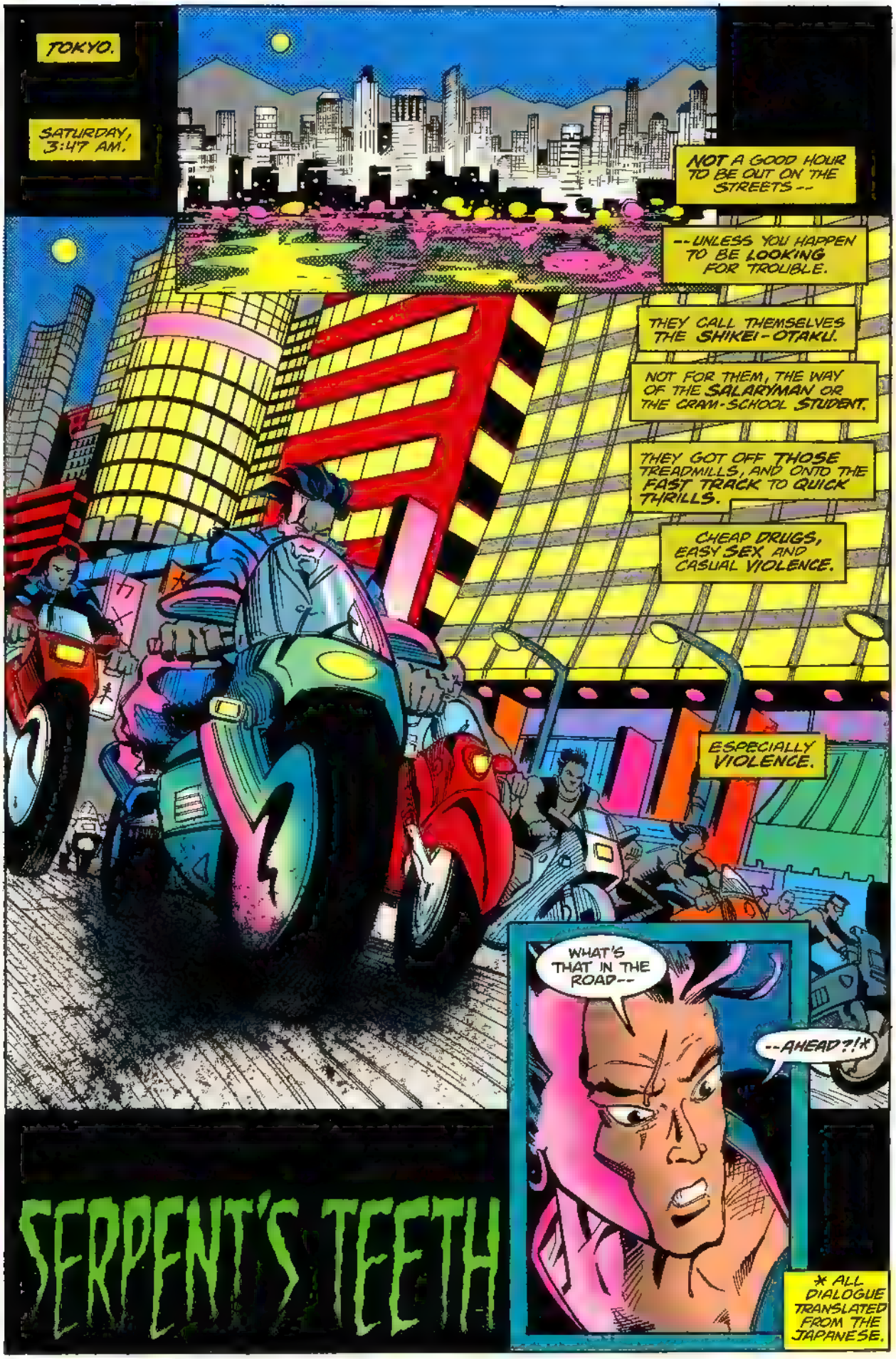
--NO SURVIVORS OF HIS INITIAL ASSAULT! HE'S CUTTING THROUGH US LIKE BUTTER!
FORGET THE BOSS'S "APPREHEND" ORDERS--
--I'M TAKING HIM OUT PERMANENTLY, BEFORE HE GETS...
...ME?
BRATTATTATTAT
IT'S NOT STOPPING HIM!
I NEED BACKUP!
FOR GOD'S SAKE, SOMEBODY HELP ME!
BRATTATTATTATTATTATTAT

THERE WERE AT LEAST SEVENTY PEOPLE IN THAT OFFICE.
YOU ANIMALS MURDERED THEM ALL.
WHAM
URK!
SNIKT
TO GET YOUR ATTENTION.
YOU MUST BE VENGEANCE-- THE ONE I DESIGNED ALL THIS UNFORTUNATE MAYHEM TO LURE HERE.
I'M PSIPHON.
THAT'S WITH A SILENT "P".
AND THIS IS JACK KELLY, INNOCENT OFFICE WORKER NUMBER 72.
HE'S JUST SILENT.

YOU WANTED ME? YOU GOT ME NOW LET HIM GO.
WOULD IT MAKE YOU ANGRY IF I KILLED HIM?
GOOD.
Snap
SORRY, JACK.
NOOOOO!
THIP
THIP
THIP
SUCH A TEMPER, THROWING THINGS LIKE A CHILD HAVING A TANTRUM.
THE KIND OF TEMPER I COULD REALLY FEED ON--
FEED ON THIS.
BCHOOM
HOPE YOU CHOKE ON IT.

NOT SO FAST.
THWAP
I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU YET!
WHAM
BAM
AFTER ALL, I DID HAVE ALL THOSE PEOPLE KILLED JUST TO TICK YOU OFF.
SLAM
I SEE NOW THAT I'LL HAVE TO RUB YOUR FACE IN IT!

OH, YES-- THAT REALLY ENRAGES YOU, DOESN'T IT?
AND I'LL BET ABJECT DEFEAT--
--WILL MAKE YOU SIMPLY FURIOUS.
KTOOM
B-BUT BOSS--AREN'T YOU GONNA KILL HIM OFF NOW, WHILE HE'S DOWN?
KILL HIM?
WHY WOULD I WANT TO KILL THE SOURCE OF ALL MY POWERS?!
TO BE CONCLUDED!


TOKYO.
SATURDAY, 3:47 AM.
NOT A GOOD HOUR TO BE OUT ON THE STREETS --
--UNLESS YOU HAPPEN TO BE LOOKING FOR TROUBLE.
THEY CALL THEMSELVES THE SHIKEI-OTAKU.
NOT FOR THEM, THE WAY OF THE SALARYMAN OR THE CRAM-SCHOOL STUDENT.
THEY GOT OFF THOSE TREADMILLS, AND ONTO THE FAST TRACK TO QUICK THRILLS.
CHEAP DRUGS, EASY SEX AND CASUAL VIOLENCE.
ESPECIALLY VIOLENCE.
WHAT'S THAT IN THE ROAD--
--AHEAD?!*
SERPENT'S TEETH
* ALL DIALOGUE TRANSLATED FROM THE JAPANESE.

THEY'RE ABOUT TO GET MORE OF THAT THAN THEY CAN HANDLE.
FROM OUT OF ELDRITCH VAPOR, THREE FIGURES APPEAR--
VRRRRRMMMMMMMMM
--ASSASSINS WHOSE NAMES ARE WHISPERED FEARFULLY AMONGST THE UNDERWORLD OF THE PACIFIC RIM :
INAZUMA--
--KAZE--
--AND KAMINARI.*
*LIGHTNING, WIND AND THUNDER.
ZZRUUM
HOLY %#$@!
THE MASTERS OF SILENCE!

THEY DON'T LOOK SO TOUGH TO ME.
VVRRRUUMMUUMMUUM
SHIMATA.

RAKAM
SHROK
AUGHK
SHIKEI-OTAKU!
FOR YOUR CRIMES AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY, YOU HAVE INCURRED A DEBT OF VENGEANCE.
WE HAVE COME TO COLLECT.
THEY'RE CALLIN' US OUT.
THAT'S IT. GAME OVER.
WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE.
SHUT UP!
THERE ARE ONLY THREE OF THEM!
WASTE 'EM!

SHRIK
URSSHH
...
VRROOOM
HAUGHK
AAG
HAI!
SSCHSSK
SSSHHISHK
SKBLAT

VVRRUUUMMRUUUMR UUUMM
CHUDADADADA
HAA!
RUUUMMM
FSWSSH
RUUUMMM
THRUTCH
HAAGH

AAAAUUGHK!
PITCH
SKROTCH
SSFWSSSH
THROKAK
YAAAGH
SHPLAT
SIX AND A HALF SECONDS AFTER THE BATTLE BEGAN--
--IT'S IRREVOCABLY FINISHED.
WHY?
WHAT ARE WE TO SUCH AS YOU?
WHAT HAVE WE DONE TO OFFEND?
US? NOTHING.
WE ACT IN SERVICE TO OTHERS.

WE ANSWER THE PLEAS OF THE FAMILIES TO WHOM YOU HAVE BROUGHT DISHONOR BY YOUR HOOLIGANISM.
WE COME TO AVENGE THE UNENDURABLE SHAME YOUR THIEVERY AND VIOLENCE HAVE BROUGHT TO THEIR HOUSES.
THEN... YOU WERE... HIRED BY--
SWFASHT
YES.
WE WERE HIRED BY--
--YOUR PARENTS.
SHIAGE.